



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

September 9, 2017

Mr. Ramiro Garcia
Deputy Director
Office of Compliance and Enforcement
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: Outdoor Burning of Debris from Hurricane Harvey Cleanup Efforts

Dear Mr. Garcia:

The EPA is aware of the tremendous damage that Hurricane Harvey caused in the State of Texas. We are also cognizant of the extraordinary circumstances you face in your clean-up and recovery efforts, such as removing large amounts of debris.

We understand that the State has provided waivers to certain air quality rules to alleviate some of the regulatory burdens it faces in its recovery efforts. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Executive Director has the authority to waive certain requirements under 30 Texas Administrative Code 111.215 so as to allow open burning of woody debris from Hurricane Harvey aftermath. As such, the State can approve open burning of debris, consistent with guidance provided by the TCEQ. The EPA has reviewed the emergency hurricane debris management guidance on the TCEQ website and concurs with its use.

The EPA will continue to work with and assist the TCEQ to manage the cleanup efforts from Hurricane Harvey. If you have questions, please contact me or Frances Verhalen of my staff at (214) 665-2172.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wren Stenger".

Wren Stenger
Director
Multimedia Division

cc: Cynthia Gandee
Texas Commission on
Environmental Quality